NCW's request on adultery

2168. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Commission for Women has approached Government to make adultery a civil wrong and not a criminal offence, as at present;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government regarding the proposal that women be not punished for adultery as she is 'victim' and not the 'offender'; and

(c) whether, as it may require amendment to existing sections of the Criminal Law, Government may try to get consensus of political outfits State Governments, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. In the comments furnished by the National Commission for Women to the Ministry of Women and Child Development in respect of a reference made to the Commission by the Ministry, following a petition submitted to the Hon'ble President, the Commission has made a recommendation that the issue of adultery should be viewed as a breach of trust and treated as a civil wrong rather than a criminal offence but this should be done only after working out a national consensus in the matter.

(b) As per the existing provision in section 497 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the wife (who is involved in adultery) shall not be punishable as an abettor.

(c) The recommendations of the Commission on the subject are under examination of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Reforms in mineral exploration

2169. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to commit itself to a time bound mineral exploration process by setting time-lines for grant of prospecting and mining licences and set up an independent mining tribunal to settle disputes;

(b) if so, whether these aspects would be brought into the National Mineral Policy, 2007;

(c) if so, the details of the policy measures approved;

(d) whether the policy has taken any stand regarding the idea of imposing export duty on export of iron; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (e) National Mineral Policy, 2007 which includes policy proposals on the need for time-bound grant of mineral concessions, setting up of independent tribunal, etc. is under consideration of the Government.

Survey of mineral resources in Rajasthan

2170. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Geological Survey of India has carried out survey of mineral resources in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether it has identified those mineral resources which have depleted fast and untapped areas deserving exploration;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India has identified fast depleting minerals and untapped areas deserving exploration in Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) Gold, copper-lead-zinc and phosphorite have been identified as minerals which have limited reserves and are fast depleting. In Rajasthan, untapped areas for gold are located in Udaipur, Banswara, Ajmer and Bhilwara districts; for copper in Dausa, Sikar, Jhunjhunu and Rajsamand districts; for lead-zinc in Udaipur district and phosphorite in